

AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. KAPOK-2563
SGAA-9694

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KAPOK CLASSIFICATION

APR 22 1954

: Chief, SE
Attn: ☐
FROM : Senior Representative, ☐ *7) RTH*

DATE: _____

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBOPUS

SPECIFIC— WILLOW Team Operational Progress Report
15 March through 14 April 1954

REF: SGAA-9191, 29 March 1954
SGAW-4212, 3 March 1954

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Headquarters Action Required

None

Synopsis

WILLOW team was disbanded. AIRWORTHY and RNDEPLOY have been terminated and sent to Lavrica.

RNORDAIN and AIRSLACK have accepted WEDNESDAY mission.

RNORDAIN offered to go on a special mission to Tirana.

Narrative of Events

16 March

1. RNORDAIN was interviewed on the subject of his contacts in Albania. He stated we must assume they are blown and proceed accordingly. He maintained, however, that he could lead his team into the area he operated in last year and renew his old contacts provided he took "necessary precautions". We failed to elicit any clear explanation of what these precautions consisted of.

2. At our request, RNORDAIN reviewed all his contacts with us and described the capabilities of each. One potential contact mentioned is particularly interesting and will be proposed in the WEDNESDAY mission operational plan.

17 March

3. RNORDAIN

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17 March

3. RNORDAIN was told that the current situation in Albania dictated a change in tactics and that such change would probably necessitate the disbanding of WILLOW team. He was asked if he would be willing to lead a new team into a different area of Korce than the one he was familiar with. RNORDAIN was much distressed over the prospect of losing his old team members and announced that as these were the only men he trusted implicitly and they were the only ones he could infiltrate with. This meeting ended with Mersereau telling RNORDAIN that he intended to interview the members of WILLOW separately to determine their feelings regarding reassignment and to review their contacts in Albania. Mersereau expressed the hope that RNORDAIN would reconsider his position on the subject of reassignment.

19 March

4. AIRWORTHY, RNDEPLOY, and AIRSLACK were interviewed by []

5. AIRWORTHY categorically refused to participate in any operation other than WILLOW. He has no promising contacts. Those he does have could only be used for supplying food.

6. RNDEPLOY also refused to work except as a member of WILLOW team. His contacts are primarily members of his family which must be assumed to be blown.

7. AIRSLACK expressed regret that WILLOW team might be dissolved but stated he was ready to accept any reasonable assignment offered him. He listed eight potential contacts of his that had not yet been approached by WILLOW. Two of these are nephews of his who are members of the C.P. They will be treated in the WEDNESDAY operational plan.

20 March

8. RNORDAIN was told that the decision to disband WILLOW had definitely been made. He was further informed that we would have no use for AIRWORTHY and RNDEPLOY in the foreseeable future, because of the narrow limitations they placed on their service and because of their limited potential. RNORDAIN reiterated his feeling that he could operate successfully with WILLOW this year but stated he was, of course, at our disposal and would accept any job given him.

He admitted to

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He admitted to [] after [] had left that his expressed unwillingness to work with other men was only a bid to keep his team together. He said he would accept to work with any Albanians he did not have cause to mistrust.

22 March

9. RNORDAIN was again offered the leadership of an intelligence mission to the Korce area. We explained that this mission was to be charged with the development of specific persons who could yield a higher grade of intelligence than that we have collected heretofore. He was told the proposed composition of the team which included AIRSLACK and accepted the assignment readily.

24 March

10. RNORDAIN, AIRWORTHY, and RNDEPLOY were assembled and the latter two told of their termination. We informed them they would receive whatever assistance we could afford in the matter of their resettlement. They signed quit-claims and were given a separation payment of 6,000,000 drachma apiece. Both men were assured that our action was dictated by financial necessity and did not in any way imply dissatisfaction with their service. They were told that we hoped we could count on them should we need their help in the future. Both AIRWORTHY and RNDEPLOY expressed their gratitude for the termination pay and assured us they would always be prepared to work for HTNEIGH. We do not anticipate difficulty with either of these two men. They left for Lavrion on 29 March.

30 March

11. RNORDAIN had previously offered to [] to undertake a special mission to Tirana. [] met with RNORDAIN 30 March to determine what was on his mind and to explore the feasibility of his offer. RNORDAIN said he had lived in and around Tirana for four years during the early 1940's. He knows the area between Tirana and the coast and proposed that he be put ashore from a submarine or boat immediately north of Durrës, walk to Tirana, perform any desired coup de main mission and return for pick-up by boat two nights later. In answer to our question he said he would consider walking out of the country if appropriate concentrated rations could be provided him for his journey. RNORDAIN was told his offer would be given careful consideration.

31 March

12. RNORDAIN was paid the April living allowance for himself and AIRSLACK this date.

Comment:

13. We attempted

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Comment:

13. We attempted to arrange the separation of AIRWORTHY and RNDEPLOY in such a way that these men could keep their pride and a favorable attitude toward us. We hope we have succeeded.

14. This will be the last operational progress report on WILLOW team. Further correspondence on this team, if any, will be prepared irregularly as required.

20 April 1954

Rmw
FMW/WEH/rs1

Distribution:

- 3 - Washington ✓
- 1 - Washington (Vital Documents)
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